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which we derive are very small in comparison with the demands which are made upon us. But I can assure you that it is the earnest desire of my Government to see that all the resources which we can spare are properly and wisely spent upon the improvement of the conditions of those who inhabit this Presidency. In particular, I should like to mention our policy as regards the very important subject of Education. I think an impartial examiner would admit that, considering the limited funds available the Government of Madras have been far from illiberal in the past, and as I have already said I hope that we shall be able to continue our existing grants. We have however come to the conclusion that the primary need is an extension of elementary education. If education is to be general, it will, I think, be readily admitted that there is little use in multiplying secondary schools, colleges and universities until there is a sound sub-structure underneath. We have therefore decided that in future the funds available shall be primarily devoted to the spread of elementary education.

"I would also like to refer briefly to the engineering projects which my Government are executing. I have recently been able to pay a visit to Mettur and I am glad to be able to say that the execution of the works there which owing to certain unavoidable causes, had not been progressing so fast as the engineers would have wished, is now proceeding very satisfactorily. The construction of the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme is also well on its way and it is hoped that power will be supplied by the end of 1932. Both these projects should be of great benefit to the Presidency and it is to be hoped that they will come up to expectations.

"Mr. President and hon. Members of Council—It seems to be more than probable that this will be the last Council elected under the present system. I would like therefore to express my congratulations to your predecessors who have made the Madras Legislative Council an outstanding success in India and I am convinced that you are determined that this Council shall not fall short of the high standard that they have set. If you should need it, I am ready at any time to give you any advice and assistance that may lie in my power, and I offer you my most heartfelt good wishes in the work which lies before you."

His Excellency then left the Council Chamber.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Mr. President, Sir, before we resume the regular business of the Council, it is my painful duty to-day to refer to the death of an hon. Member of this House, Mr. V. N. Kuppu Rao. As you all know, he was an Advocate and a distinguished criminal lawyer of our city. By his premature and untimely death, this Council has been deprived of his services. I beg to move :—

'*That an expression of the sincere regret of this Council at the death of Mr. V. N. Kuppu Rao, M.L.C., and of deep sympathy with his bereaved family be placed on record and conveyed to them*'."

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, I beg to second the resolution moved by my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House. It was only the other day that Mr. Kuppu Rao took his oath of allegiance to the Crown after his

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election to the Council and he came to the Council rather late in his life after having had a successful career at the criminal bar. It is a pity that he has been snatched away in the prime of life when his work in the Council might have been useful to the constituency which had elected him."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed on the death of Mr. Kuppu Rao. He belonged to the North Arcot district, to which I also belong, and he was returned to the Legislative Council this year as one of the representatives of that district. He was a good practitioner and had an extensive practice both in the city and in the mufassal and I thought that his ripe experience he had gathered of men and matters would stand him in good stead in the Council. His death is indeed a loss to this House and a loss which can be said to be an irreparable one. Mr. Kuppu Rao was a man of very sound views, was catholic in his views and cosmopolitan in his behaviour towards others. I therefore wish to join in the expression of sympathy with his bereaved family, and support the resolution for the acceptance of the House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

'That an expression of the sincere regret of this Council at the death of Mr. V. N. Kuppu Rao, M.L.C., and of deep sympathy with his bereaved family be placed on record and conveyed to them'."

11-30 a.m.

The resolution was carried *nem. con.* all the Members of the Council standing.

IV.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Motor Vehicles Act

Test of eye-sight of the applicants for motor-driving licence.

*1 *Q.*—Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether under the Motor Vehicles Rules the applicants for driving licence are tested by the licensing authority in the Madras City and in the mufassal as to the soundness of eye-sight to read the figures in the number plate at a distance of 30 yards as in England ;

(*b*) if the answer to clause (*a*) is in the negative, whether the Government have any objection to prescribe a similar test of eye-sight ; and

(*c*) whether licences are issued to learners of motor-driving as in England ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) In the Madras City, applicants who drive for remuneration or hire should, when applying for a driving licence, produce a medical certificate, after examination by the Police Surgeon. Special attention is paid to distant vision. The question of extending this provision to the mufassal is under consideration.

(*c*) Yes.

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know why this wholesome rule is not applied in the case of owners of motor cars who wish to take to self-driving ?"